Oswald: He Had 'Strong Beliefs Aga

By James R. Dickenson
Washington Star Staff Writer

In early 1963, shortly after she moved from the Soviet Union to the United States, Marina Oswald made this assessment in her broken English of her American husband, Lee Harvey Oswald: "Me like America. Lee no like Russia. Lee no like America. Lee like the moon."

That was an apt if inadvertent metaphor. The moon, a cold, lifeless, pockmarked planetary hanger-on, is an apt simile for Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, if the description of him by his former associates in the FBI raw files is any indication.

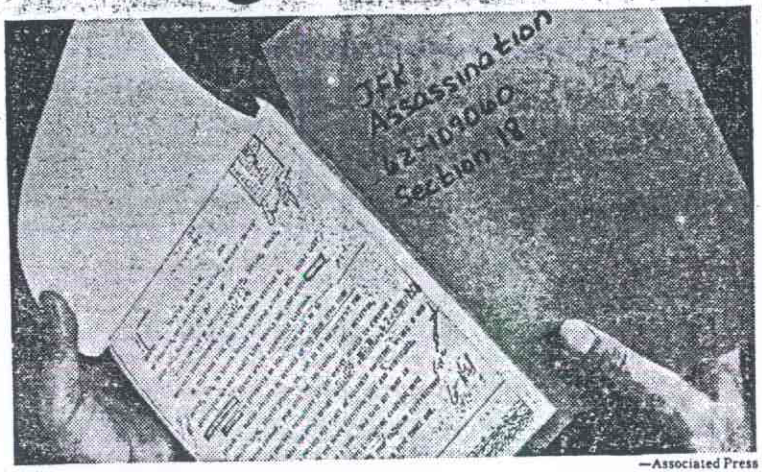
Their testimony is in 40,000 pages of documents made public yesterday. They reinforce the image of Oswald as a lonely, bitter, scruffy loser who lived in poverty on the fringe of society while nurturing dreams of fame, or notoriety, and intellectual achievement.

He is described by his acquaintances (he apparently had few if any friends) as a man who beat, slapped and otherwise mistreated his wife and whose development as a social misfit is steadily chronicled, beginning with his being repeatedly sent to the principal's office in grade school for arguing with his teachers over political democracy.

HIS WIFE AND acquaintances indicated Oswald had early dreams of violence and made previous attempts at assassination. His wife is described in the FBI files as telling how her "crazy" husband tried to assassinate Maj. Gen. Edwin Walker, a noted right-wing political leader, in Dallas about eight months before the Kennedy assassination.

Oswald, according to the FBI report, escaped from the Walker shooting scene on foot and by bus, as he did after the Kennedy assassination, after reportedly deciding that this would allow him to outwit police in patrol cars.

Lee Harvey Oswald



—Associated Press

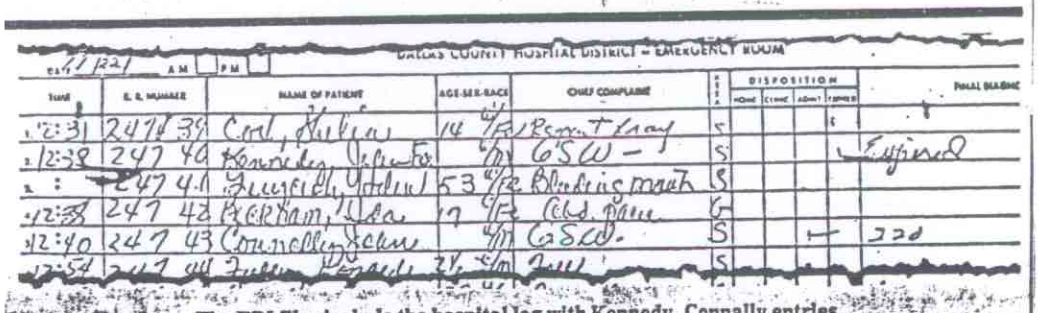
Rich investigative detail found in FBI packets released yesterday.

The few related black points in Oswald's life show up early. A cousin describes him as "outgoing as a child, but he built up strong beliefs against everything." A classmate in the Arlington Heights elementary and high schools in Fort Worth, described him as "well liked and the toughest guy in the physical education class."

Oswald attended several schools as his mother moved from New Orleans to Texas. While in the third to sixth grades in the Arlington Heights Elementary School he was described by a classmate as one who "laughed a lot but was laughed at by all the others."

It was at Arlington Heights in the late 1940s that Oswald was sent to the principal by his social studies teacher because of his defiant rejections of the theory of political democracy.

This pattern persisted. In the 10th grade, he was kicked off the football team because he insisted on lying down on the sidelines when not engaged in drills and scrimmage during practice. The football coach in-



DALLAS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT – EMERGENCY ROOM

DATE 11/22 AM PM

TIME	E. R. NUMBER	NAME OF PATIENT	AGE-SEX-RACE	CHIEF COMPLAINT		DISPOSITION HOME	CLINIC	ADMIT	TRANSFER	FINAL DIAGNOSIS
12:31	247 39	Cook, Julia	14	Resent Tray	S					
12:38	247 40	Kennedy, John F.		GSW –	S					Expired
:	247 41	Tunnell, Helen	53	Bleeding mouth	S					
12:38	247 42	Beckham, Ida	17	Chd. pain	G					
12:40	247 43	Connally, John		GSW.	S					220
12:54	247 44	[illegible]	2½	[illegible]	S					

The FBI files include the hospital log with Kennedy, Connally entries.

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sisted that everyone not involved in the drills remain standing, but Oswald contended that this violated his constitutional right to lie down.

He dropped out of high school in 1956 to enlist in the Marine Corps.

There he became known as a "loner." He split from a group of Marines who were being transferred from the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Fla., to a Marine air base in Japan and took liberty by himself in New Orleans.

In Japan, his Marine Corps acquaintances said, he had a girlfriend who was probably a Japanese prostitute, and there are stories that he was court martialed for varying offenses such as hitting a noncommissioned officer, hitting a fellow Marine with a bottle and fighting a brig guard.

By all accounts he resented Marine discipline, was irritated by orders from superiors and sneered at the tradition of a esprit de corps.

Little is known about Oswald's three years in Russia during which he met and married Marina while he was working in a factory in Minsk. According to her testimony and that of others, he did not like Russia.

HE COMPLAINED that Russians were "repressed" by their political governors and described his life in the Russian factory as one of long hours, low pay and no time off.

He complained bitterly that the Russian government delayed his return to the United States with his new wife. When he returned to America, however, life did not improve.

In October 1962 he went to work for a company in Dallas that did photographic work and provided graphic supplies for printers and graphic arts companies.

He lasted six months as a trainee whose job was to make photographic enlargements and reductions, but was fired because his work never improved. A foreman said he just simply "fouled up" everything he tried to do.

His fellow employees described him as aloof, saying they never got to know him and said that he talked mostly about his years in Russia and carried copies of the American Communist newspaper, the Daily Worker.

Employment agency representatives, including the regional director of the AFL-CIO, described him as a man who thought society ought to help him "make his way in life" and as one without qualifications who wanted a "good job," well above the average.

ONE LANDLORD said Oswald, who moved frequently, "raised Cain" with him when he moved into his apartment and found that the utilities were not hooked up.

Others described him as tight-lipped and hostile, a man who never responded to a greeting or made conversation.

They described him as being scruffy, generally needing a haircut and a shave, and as being shabbily dressed. He did not own an automobile and depended on acquaintances to take him and his wife to the Orthodox Russian Church they attended irregularly. Some neighbors and acquaintances invited them to go to other local churches with them, according to the FBI files.